

Annual Business Meeting of the Society of Indian Psychologist
June 23, 2008
Meeting Minutes

The Annual Business Meeting of the Society of Indian Psychologists was held in conjunction with the 21st Annual Convention of American Indian Psychologists and Psychology Graduate Students. The Conference Retreat was held at the Utah State University (USU) Forestry Station from June 20th to 22nd. The Annual Convention was held at USU on June 23rd and 24th, 2008.

I. Call to Order

II. Reading of the Minutes

Amendments were made.

Motion: John Perego motioned to accepted minutes

Jackie Gray seconded.

The vote was unanimous to accept.

III. Presidential Update

Activities Last year:

Fundraising- Sent out letters to various APA divisions right before APA conference requesting financial support. Received support from several APA groups. Division 45 for Study of Ethnic Minorities promised \$1000; Office of Ethnic Minority Affairs promised \$1000 (and possibly \$2000); Division 18 Psychologists in Public Service (subdivision of Psychologist in Indian Country) gave \$200 (specific to student scholarships); and Goddard College gave \$500 (Corrections: dollar amounts were changed to reflect accurate contributions from financial report).

APA Conference- Invited to go to the Asian American Psychology Association award banquet prior to the conference. They gave out awards for distinguished contributions, early career, friends of organization, dissertation award, etc. Attended the APA conference. Office of Ethnic Minority Affairs put together a booklet of presentations to help guide conference. Dr. Beth Boyd (Native American psychologist), current president of Division 45, had an installment ceremony as president. Joe Trimble got an award at that meeting. Div 56 (trauma psychology) developed special interest group looking at post-colonial trauma.

Winter meetings in Phoenix- The vote to change APA bi-laws from "observer" to "voting member" for the four ethnic group representatives was not passed during a recent APA-wide vote (63% needed 67%). There was also discussion at this meeting

about creating an early career mentorship program and might have some meetings at APA about this issue.

IV. Reports

a. Treasurer Report

- i. Total Membership \$2,630.00
- ii. Total Gifts \$1,620.00
- iii. Total Revenue \$4,250.00
- iv. Total Expenditures \$6,614.53
- v. Balance as of June 23, 2008 \$9,132.91
- vi. T-shirts sales will increase this balance
- vii. There is about \$2000 in monies that have been committed but not yet received.
- viii. Doug McDonald reported that as the outgoing treasurer of APA Div 45, he ensured there was a line item of \$1000 in donations to SIP every year but that SIP must ask for it each year. SIP is the only organization hard wired into the budget. President only needs to send an email requesting.
- ix. Carolyn Barcus acknowledged Jeff King for the 501(c)(3) as the donations wouldn't be possible. This status allows tax deductible contributions to SIP.

b. Student Representative Report

Ke Straights reported that t-shirts were printed in Albuquerque with a small native printing company called Stay Native. There were 200 shirts ordered and the goal is to bring some back to sale next year as it seems to be too much to design t-shirts every year.

Melissa Teehee reported that as of today more than half of the money spent on the t-shirts has been recouped in sales.

c. APA Observer/Council Representative Report

Doug McDonald reported that the APA seat for SIP is currently in Observer status, as is the same situation for all of the other major ethnic group representatives. Observer status means that voting members of council sit on the floor and those sent to observe sit around the outside. The four ethnic groups representatives sit at the back and are not allowed to speak unless asked to do so. Two years ago the four ethnic group representatives really started to advocate to get APA to include these four groups as new members. This would have meant a bi-law change to include these four seats. This bi-law change went to the APA membership in a vote and received a 63% positive vote but it was not enough as you need a 2/3 majority. In the past year, the representatives have worked to get the word out to memberships so that when the resolution comes out in November 08, the bi-law change will be passed. Currently, all members of APA council that are ethnic minorities will no longer have to pay for travel to Council of Representative Meetings and this is in effect for 8 years.

No formal action taken on this issue.

d. Mascot Report

Brian McNeil was appointed as a Co-Chair of a committee to examine the mascot issue and make recommendations. He reports that he has contacted the other committee members several times but never received a response back. However, he does not think we need a committee to decide as SIP has a position statement and there is summarized research on the effects of Indian mascots. He recommended that we refer all inquiries to the president of SIP to respond by referring to these positions (APA and SIP) and research summaries. John Perego indicated that the point of the committee was to have patent responses ready with research cited. Carolyn Barcus stated that there are cases where some tribal communities do support Indian mascots and cautioned the group about making blanket statements that all native people are against mascots. Brian McNeil responded that keeping with the psychological literature help SIP from getting into discussion about who supports and who doesn't. Carolyn Morris brought to light that some tribal communities do not want to waste time dealing with mascot issues as there are bigger issues such as poverty and health disparities. Sue Crawley stated that a meta-analysis of literature might be useful to help with this issue as the literature is often slanted in favor of one position. Doug McDonald really believes that SIP needs a formal statement and wanted to reflect in the minutes that SIP has a procedure for dealing with inquires. His suggested procedure was that the SIP elected leader will represent SIP and will consult with members who are experts in the mascot issue prior to making public statement about mascots. Jeff King discussed the possibility of having a statement on website regarding mascots. Mark Daniels reported that SIP has made a statement before about Indian mascots that could be used and that a link to APA's position statement should be on the new website. Jeff suggested that Frequently Asked Questions on the website might allow SIP to represent the different perspective across the country on the issue. Motion was made by Jeff King that we have a summary statement regarding SIP position around the mascot issue on the website and that APA receive a copy of the position. Doug McDonald made an amendment that Frequently Asked Questions on the issues be added to the website. Gyda Swaney seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimous. Next Steps: Jeff King and Brian McNeil agreed to put together a position statement for Mark to review by August 1.

V. Old Business

a. Website

Need to make sure that when SIP is searched on search engines that the current site comes up. Executive committee decided to have USU host website and will appoint a standing committee to follow website. There are two major issues with the website: 1) Website development; 2) Website maintenance

with quarterly updates. The goal is to have the new website fully functional by September 1. Carolyn Barcus has agreed to use USU staff to do updates to the website after it is developed. If Antonio Arce is unable to develop the website, Patricia Alexander will get an OSU student to help with the web development. Volunteers: Patricia Alexander, Melissa Teehee, and Mark Daniels will serve. John Peregoy will consult. Jeff King reported that the National Network for Eliminating Disparities (NNED) has technical assistance for any organization that is a member. They can assist with setting up websites so that might be a resource. He agreed to find out the requirements for membership.

VI. New Business

a. INPSYCH Funding Report

Doug McDonald will summarize the status of INPSYCH funding and send out on the listserv.

b. Formation of Scholarship Committee

SIP has a committee of people on the executive council (Patricia Alexander, John Peregoy, and Melissa Teehee) but want to open it up to one more person from the general membership. Joseph Amador agreed to join the scholarship committee.

VII. Elections

a. Treasurer:

Nominations:

Carolyn Barcus nominated Patricia Alexander

Patricia accepted the nomination

John Peregoy seconded the nomination

The vote passed unanimously

b. Student Representatives

Nominations:

Patricia nominated Melissa Teehee and Ke Straights

Melissa accepted

Ke declined

Jackie nominated Kyle Hill

Kyle accepted

Jeff seconded the nominations for Melissa and Kyle

Vote for Melissa past unanimously

Vote for Kyle past unanimously

c. APA Observer/Council Representative

John Peregoy nominated Doug McDonald

Gyda Swaney seconded the nomination

Doug accepted nomination

The vote passed unanimously

VIII. Meeting Adjourned

IX. Closing Prayer